

The Southeast News

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AUGUST 1967



Mrs. Frank Merhoff Wins First Place In Stewardship Poster Project

A member of First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Nashville, Mrs. Frank (Glenda) Merhoff has won first place in the national Stewardship Poster Project.

The 45th Annual Stewardship Project had contestants judged on local church, Conference and national levels.

Mrs. Merhoff grew up in Louisville, Ky. She received her B. A. from Radford College and her Master's in Mathematics from University of Kentucky.

She and Mr. Merhoff have two children, Doyle 3, and Marla 1½.

She taught math at University of Kentucky, Vanderbilt, and Peabody College.

Mrs. Merhoff now divides her time between her family, teaching the Senior Hi Class at First United Church, and being Study Chairman of Women of the Church.

Conference Minister And Association Meetings

Association meetings will soon claim delegates from the churches for their important business sessions. Conference staff will also be attending these meetings. Attendance at these meetings, and full participation in their programs and in their organizational responsibilities is an index of any church's capacity to renew itself and to live up to its character as Christian.

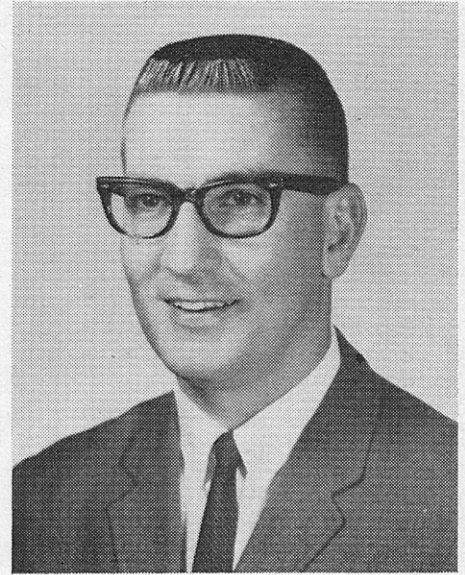
Associations in the United Church of Christ have exclusive functions nowhere else accomplished — the recognition and acceptance of churches of our order, according to the standards and practice of the United Church of Christ, and the care that Christian fellowship extends to one another's welfare. The recognition and acceptance of ministers, according to the standards and practice of the United Church of Christ, and the encouragement of Christian vocations are entirely Association acts.

According to the adopted policy and practice of the Southeast Conference, the initiative for mission and its proposal lies with the Association. The Association shares in the proposal of every project which is finally adopted by the Conference and supported in the Conference budget.

Not only are these and similar practices exclusive with Associations, but the Association influences the Conference life and effectiveness. Each Association elects its moderator and one other person to the Board of Directors of the Conference.

Through Association elections, through its business sessions which carefully judge the recommendations of the Association committees, and the mobilization of lay leadership for common tasks of service to the community, the Association has great power to share the mind of the Church at work.

Has your church elected its best representatives to take seriously these



Rev. James E. Humphrey Is New Pastor At Huntsville

Rev. James E. Humphrey, a native of Southern Pines, North Carolina, will begin his work as pastor of the United Church in Huntsville, Alabama, August 6th. Mr. Humphrey comes from the Congregational Church of Rutland, Vermont, where he has served for three years as associate minister.

Graduating from Elon College, North Carolina, with an A. B. degree, Mr. Humphrey received his B. D. from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut.

Mrs. Humphrey, the former Faye Gordon of Suffolk, Virginia, graduated from Elon College. Both Faye and Jim were active in Pilgrim Fellowship work and were Summer Service Workers.

The Humphreys have two young children, both boys.

The Huntsville Church is fortunate in securing the services of this fine young couple.

responsibilities in the Association meetings this fall?

Mrs. Jesse H. Dollar

Mrs. Jesse H. Dollar, wife of Rev. Jesse Holliday Dollar of Roanoke, Alabama, died on Saturday, June 24, 1967, in Randolph County Hospital in Roanoke, following a heart attack.

As part of a church-going family, Fannie Mae had been active in church activities since childhood. As the wife of an active minister, she had shared actively in the services which he had performed in various places and capacities. Dr. Dollar had taught in Southern Union College and Birmingham-Southern before becoming pastor of the Reidsville, North Carolina Church in 1928. From here he went to serve churches in LaGrange, Georgia, Newport News, Virginia, Elon College, North Carolina, and Liberty Springs Church near Suffolk, Virginia. Following his second pastorate at Newport News, Dr. and Mrs. Dollar moved "back home" to Roanoke, where they had their own home and had lived for three years.

Funeral services for Mrs. Dollar were held Monday, June 26, from the church in which she had her membership, New Hope Congregational Christian, with Rev. Olin Hheppard and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave officiating ministers. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Survivors besides her husband include three sisters: Mrs. W. A. Brumbeloe of Roanoke, Mrs. C. E. Dunn of Atlanta, and Mrs. W. A. Price of West Point; and four brothers, the Rev. Preston M. Elder of Albuquerque, N. M., Grover C. Elder of LaGrange, L. J. Elder of Roanoke, and D. W. Elder of LaFayette.

Bethel Church, West Point, Georgia, Makes Progress

We are glad to report that our church is making progress. Since the beginning of the church year we have received five new members into our fellowship. We held our revival the second week in June, with Rev. Allen B. Hollis Jr. of Langdale as guest speaker. We had special music each night from visiting churches and from Bethel. Neighboring churches of various denominations were very cooperative.

Union services with Reed's Chapel Baptist Church are being held on Sunday nights, with the two pastors taking turns speaking.

Sandra Backstrom, Reporter

"The Long Road Back—"

Forty men, representing seven churches of the East Alabama Laymen's Fellowship met with the First Congregational Christian Church in Phenix City, Alabama, May 27, 1967.

They heard guest speaker Bob Hulon, a new member of the First Church, tell of the "long road back" he had experienced as he fought his way from dope addiction to an honorable place in society.

Bob began as a "boy wonder" salesman with the world at his feet, and then sank to the gutter and finally to prison, when he substituted a bottle of pills for God. He began taking pills to ease his nerves. Then he took other pills to pep him up. Soon he was hooked and didn't know it.

A talk with his warden and a horrifying Christmas Eve experience started him on the long road back.

One of the great moments in Bob's life came recently when he, his wife, and two of their children stood before the pulpit in First Church, Phenix City, Alabama, and became members of that church.

Said Bob, "I want the whole nation to hear my story. I want all these college students who think they can take drugs without harm to hear it. I want them to know what it can do to them because of what it did to me."

Anyone desiring to have Bob Hulon speak in their church should correspond with Rev. John E. Rhodes, 1603 14th Court, Phenix City, Ala. 36867.

Some Thoughts On Travel And Vacation

A traveler has been described as a person who travels thousands of miles to get a photograph of himself standing by his car — and then returns with more brag than baggage. However, most of us like to travel on our vacations so we can get a change and a rest, only to find that the toll booths get the change and the motels get the rest. There are many nice ways to travel, but most of us with children like to drive because it's nice for a while to have something in our hands we can control.

There are many problems with vacations, of course. It takes less and less time to fly, but more and more

(Continued on Page 4)

Rev. Horace Sills In New Responsibility

The Board for Homeland Ministries has assigned Rev. Horace Sills of the Town and Country Department with offices in Lancaster, Pa., to be the liaison person to the Southern Conference and to the Southeast Conference. He will gradually assume responsibilities in our area formerly held by Rev. J. Edmund Lippy and Rev. John C. DeBoer.

Already, Mr. Sills has met with the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference. From July 19 until July 30, he has conferred with churches at Anniston, Thomasville, Phenix City, Columbus, and in other places of need. He will meet with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors on September 11 and 12, 1967, and will visit with several churches at that time.

It is good to have Mr. Sills among us.

Alcoholics Are People—TV Series To Be On Tennessee Stations

For late summer and fall viewing, the Tennessee Council of Churches is sponsoring a TV series called "Alcoholics Are People." It can be used by churches for information and for discussion groups. In addition to placing the programs, also included is an announcement directory of local councils on alcoholism, which makes follow-up possible or referrals for further help.

This series of 11 programs helps to understand the alcoholic, adults and teen-ager, showing how people—family, employer, minister — can helpfully live with him or her.

Begins:

Nashville WDCN TV, Ch. 2, Aug. 7, 3:00 p. m.

Nashville WDCN TV, Ch. 2, Aug. 9, 7:30 p. m.

Knoxville WSJK TV, Ch. 2, Aug. 11, 8:00 p. m.

Memphis WKNO TV, Ch. 10, Aug. 23, 5:00 p. m.

Memphis WKNO TV, Ch. 10, Aug. 24, 8:00 p. m.

Check your TV listings for this program. It is listed on Atlanta stations, too.

Basic O. C. W. M. Giving Of Southeast Conference Churches

January 1 - June 30, 1967

| ALABAMA | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Alexander City, Antioch | 0 |
| Alexander City, Hunt Mem. | 0 |
| Alpine, King's Chapel | 0 |
| Andalusia, Antioch | 0 |
| Andalusia, First | 100 |
| Anniston, First | 200 |
| Arley, Robertson's Chapel | 15 |
| Ashland, Bethel | 0 |
| Athens, Trinity | 0 |
| Birmingham, First | 597 |
| Birmingham, Pilgrim | 750 |
| Birmingham, St. John's | 199 |
| Brantley, Indian Creek | 0 |
| Brantley, Liberty | 0 |
| Caddo, Cong. Christian | 77 |
| Clio, New Hope | 0 |
| Cullman, St. John's | 165 |
| Dadeville, Elder | 68* |
| E. Tallassee, Cong. Christian | 225 |
| Eclectic, Watson's Chapel | 0 |
| Five Points, State Line | 0 |
| Garden City, Cong. Christian | 100 |
| Hackleburg, Fairview | 0 |
| Haleyville, Union Grove | 0 |
| Hanceville, Mt. Grove | 40 |
| Headland, Blackwood | 198 |
| Houston, Liberty Hill | 0 |
| Huntsville, United | 651 |
| LaFayette, Pleasant Grove | 250* |
| Lanett, Cong. Christian | 2,100* |
| Lanett, Huguley | 0 |
| Langdale, Con. Christian | 1,555* |
| Lineville, New Harmony | 50* |
| Marion, First | 40 |
| Midland City, Christian Hill | 0 |
| (inactive) | |
| Montgomery, First | 512 |
| Montgomery, United | 271 |
| Moulton, Jones Chapel | 0 |
| Mt. Creek, Union | 0 |

| | |
|--|------|
| Phenix City, First | 250* |
| Phenix City, Russell Woods | 0 |
| Pisgah, Cong. Christian | 50* |
| Roanoke, Antioch | 30* |
| Roanoke, Bethany | 0 |
| Roanoke, First | 100* |
| Roanoke, Forest Home | 0 |
| Roanoke, Lowell | 208* |
| Roanoke, Mt. Zion | 0 |
| Roanoke, New Hope | 250* |
| Roanoke, Rock Stand | 0 |
| Roanoke, Rock Spring | 0 |
| Roanoke, Sweet Home | 0 |
| (inactive) | |
| Selma, First | 10 |
| Seman, Community | 0 |
| Shawmut, Todd | 0 |
| Steele, Mt. Lebanon | 0 |
| Tallassee, Mt. Olive | 50 |
| Talladega, First | 0 |
| Town Creek, Old Liberty | 0 |
| Wadley, Beulah | 0 |
| Wadley, Christian | 210* |
| Wadley, Corinth | 100* |
| Wedowee, Caver's Grove | 0 |
| Wedowee, Noon Day | 0 |
| Wetumpka, Balm of Gilead | 0 |
| *A total of \$5,221 was given to O. C. W. M. from these churches — \$1,600 went to East Alabama Association and \$3,621 came to the Conference office. | |

| FLORIDA | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Baker, Good Hope | 18 |
| Baker, Pyron's Chapel | 0 |
| Bonifay, New Effort | 0 |

| GEORGIA | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Ambrose, Christian | 0 |
| Atlanta, Carroll Heights | 0 |
| Atlanta, Center (inactive) | 0 |
| Atlanta, Central | 3,300 |
| Atlanta, First | 300 |
| Atlanta, Rush Memorial | 0 |
| Barnesville, Fredonia | 150 |
| Baxley, Friendship | 0 |
| Beachton, Evergreen | 25 |
| Bowman, Liberty | 0 |
| Braselton, Macedonia | 0 |
| Bristol, Antioch | 0 |
| Buford, Duncan's Creek | 0 |
| Columbus, First | 161 |
| Columbus, United | 0 |
| Crest, Hebron | 0 |
| Demorest, Federated | 200 |
| Doerun, New Light | 0 |
| Doerun, Poplar Arbor | 0 |
| Douglas, First | 0 |
| Enigma, Christian | 0 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Gaillard, Pleasant Hill | 0 |
| Hampton, County Line | 0 |
| LaGrange, Hillside | 0 |
| LaGrange, United | 143 |
| Macon, First | 0 |
| Meansville, First | 0 |
| McIntosh, Midway | 0 |
| Pearson, Union Hill | 0 |
| Pine Mountain, Oak Grove | 300 |
| Richland, First | 0 |
| Richland, Providence Chapel | 0 |
| Savannah, First | 0 |
| Thomasville, Bethany | 0 |
| Tifton, First (inactive) | 0 |
| Tifton, Vanceville | 0 |
| Waycross, Williams Chapel | 60 |
| West Point, Bethel | 0 |
| Woodbury, Jones Chapel | 0 |

| KENTUCKY | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Evarts, First | 690 |
| Stearns, Community | 0 |

| MISSISSIPPI | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Tougaloo, Union | 100 |

| SOUTH CAROLINA | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Charleston, Circular | 0 |
| Charleston, Plymouth | 150 |

| TENNESSEE | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Belvidere, First | 600 |
| Chattanooga, First | 0 |
| Chattanooga, Pilgrim | 2,150 |
| Crossville, First | 204 |
| Daisy, Cong. Christian | 0 |
| Deer Lodge, Cong. Christian | 64 |
| Glenmary, Cong. Christian | 25 |
| Knoxville, First | 0 |
| Nashville, Brookmeade | 250 |
| Nashville, First | 650 |
| Nashville, Fisk Union | 0 |
| Nashville, Howard | 0 |
| Pleasant Hill, Community | 0 |
| Robbins, Barton Chapel | 60 |
| Soddy, First | 200 |
| Sweetwater, First | 175 |
| Total O. C. W. M. Giving | 19,396 |

Neighbors In Need Offering

October 1st, Worldwide Communion Sunday, has been designated as the time for the "Neighbors in Need" offering. This year the offering emphasizes youth-ministry needs in higher education, in rural and inner-city areas, in church vocations, and among Spanish-American, Indian-American, and Negro-American minority groups.

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time to get to the airport. We seem to be traveling in tomorrow's cars on yesterday's highways with today's drivers. I have heard that what America really needs is people who will carry to their jobs the same will to get ahead that they display in traffic.

One description of a vacation is that it is the period during which those rainy days for which you have been saving finally arrive. This should remind us that the summer vacation period tends to be a rainy one for your church unless our members keep up with their contributions during their absence. Our bills don't go on vacation — they just go on.

I hope each one of you will remember to submit your pledges and contributions in advance when you plan to be away. I am sure such action will make the sun shine a little brighter both here and wherever you are! Don't put it off — remember that a trombone player is the only one who succeeds by letting things slide.

—Clyde Wilhelm, Chairman
Birmingham, Alabama
Board of Trustees, Pilgrim
Congregational Church,

(Taken from Pilgrim's Progress
newsletter)

Resignations

Rev. Robert Helm has resigned as pastor of the Pleasant Hill Church in Pleasant Hill, Tenn., effective August 6, 1967. His plans for the future are not indicated in his resignation.

Rev. Harold Long has resigned as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Birmingham, Ala., effective October 31, 1967. He has accepted a call to become the minister of the Church of the Open Door in Miami, Florida. During the thirteen years Mr. Long has served in Birmingham, he has been moderator of the Alabama-Mississippi Association for several years and has served in many capacities in the former Convention of the South.

Our best wishes to both of these ministers as they enter new fields of service.

SEC Youth Officers Meet In Atlanta

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sanford once again opened their home the weekend of July 21-23 for a meeting of the SEC youth officers. Present were: Terry Simmons, president; Ron Petty, vice-president; Betty Jane Dunbar, corresponding secretary; Wendy Cox, recording secretary; Geoffrey Gadsden, treasurer; Debbie Price, faith chairman; Benny Carstens, fellowship chairman; and Rev. Emilie Pitcock, minister of Christian education.

Geoffrey Gadsden and Ron Petty reported on the 1967 National Youth Forum, held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Other matters included the location for the 1968 Annual SEC Youth Meeting, and the possibility of participating in a regional forum with one or more neighboring conferences in lieu of a National Youth Forum next year. Work was continued on an SEC Youth Newsletter which will be sent to local churches shortly.

The Lord's Prayer In Contemporary Language

One of the suggestions made at the General Synod held in Cincinnati was encouragement given to more contemporary language in the use of our liturgy. Since we are a "free church," the local church determines its own forms of service, but as "responsible churches," we also listen to what is said at Synod. For instance, here is the new version of the Lord's Prayer proposed for use:

Our Father in Heaven,
Your Name be honored.
Your Kingdom come
And Your will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us today the food we need;
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who have wronged us.
Keep us clear of temptation,
And save us from evil.
For the kingdom and power
And glory are Yours forever.
Amen

Churches Urged To Take Special Offering For Middle East Refugees

Churches are urged to send gifts to the Conference office for the relief program for Middle East refugees. This is an urgent appeal for emergency needs.

The General Synod accepted a goal of \$200,000 as the United Church's share of \$1,000,000 pledged by Church World Service to aid refugees in the Middle East. Congregations are urged to receive a special offering as soon as possible to help provide desperately needed food, clothing, and household supplies.

At first glance, it might seem as though the help we could give for Middle East Relief would be only a drop in the bucket. After all, in the past sixteen years since the founding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, the governments of the United States and other nations have contributed over \$558,000,000 to this cause. The truth is, however, that non-governmental funds are now needed more than ever, since the present crisis requires day-to-day flexibility in the administration of aid to refugees. We can do no more unless additional funds are given, as reserves of the Service Division of our Board for World Ministries have been exhausted.

UCC funds helped provide some of the first powdered milk to reach refugees in Amman. UCC funds channeled to Church World Service enabled immediate shipment of relief goods from a CWS storage depot in Athens, and an airlift flight from New York. Food and blankets continue to be top priority. Tents and clothing are close behind.

MEETINGS IN S. E. CONFERENCE OFFICE

Executive Committee of the Board of
Directors — September 11 & 12

Commission on Institutions and Min-
istries — September 19

Commission on Lay Life & Work —
September 19